REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being unclear. Claims 2, 4, 5, 7 and 10-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kavanagh (U.S. Pat. No. 7,003,598) in view of Flinn (U.S. Pat. No. 6,657,550).

CLAIM REJECTIONS - SECTION 112

In response to these claim rejections, claims 17 and 18 have been cancelled.

OBVIOUSNESS

Direct Interaction of wireless transmitter units and media file reading and display units

Inventions of Claims 2 and 7

Independent claims 2 and 7, as amended, now recite that the media file reading and display apparatus (e.g. a DVD player) receives the operational code directly from the first unit in claim 2 (or first remote control in claim 7) to enable direct selection and display of a media file via imposed offset addressing.

Thus, in embodiments of the present invention, IR signals representing operational codes are transmitted directly from the first unit in claim 2 (or first remote

control in claim 7) to the media file reading and display apparatus to effect a game play.

Conveniently, this direct transmission of the operational code to the media file reading and display apparatus avoids the added cost, technical complexity and transmissions inefficiencies associated with having an intermediate signal synchronizer/relaying unit between the first unit and the media file reading and display unit.

Kavanagh Invention

In contrast Kavanagh clearly and consistently teaches the inclusion of a base unit 102 for relaying signals from a game control unit 103 to a DVD player 101 (see Fig. 1 and col. 4, lines 20-44). Specifically, the base unit 102 receives an RF signal from the game control unit 103, amplifies and converts the RF signal to an IR signal, and transmits the IR signal onward to the DVD player 101.

The base unit 102 in Kavanagh also serves an additional functional purpose as a device for synchronizing the game control unit 103 and the DVD player 101. For instance, at col. 5, line 67 to col. 6, line 19, Kavanagh teaches that in order to allow the game control unit 103 to directly specify a particular clip of multimedia content of a DVD for playback, a base unit 102 is required in order to maintain synchronization between the game control unit 103 and the DVD player 101.

Furthermore, it is necessary for all emulated remote control signals sent by the game control unit 103 to be routed through the base unit 102 which converts the RF signal emitted by control unit 103 into an IR signal that the standard DVD player 101 can understand.

In view of the inclusion of a base unit (102) as an intermediate relay and synchronization device, Kavanagh cannot be said to provide direct transmission of the operational code to the DVD player 101 from the game control unit 103 to effect game play as is required by claims 2 and 7. Moreover, the base unit 102 plays a key and integral functional role in the operation of the Kavanagh invention and there is no compelling reason in either Kavanagh or Flinn as to why a person of ordinary skill in the art would even consider modifying Kavanagh to allow for direct transmission.

Non-Standard Control Signals Used

In the Kavanagh abstract, it is clearly stated that the game control unit mimics standard remote control signals to control playback of the audiovisual content by the DVD player. It is again stated in Kavanagh at col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, line 19, that the game control unit mimics the main functions of a standard DVD remote control. Furthermore, at page 7, lines 47-58, Kavanagh explains that the actual control signals

used to effect a game play selection include standard DVD browse signals such as "Up", "Down", and "Enter".

Whilst Kavanagh teaches that a keyboard of the game control unit 103 may provide application-specific assignable keys as well as custom key operation, this is still intended to mimic standard remote control signals of a standard DVD remote control.

In contrast, the invention of claim 2 expressly recites that the operational codes of the transmitted signals used to control the operation of the media file reading and display apparatus are not indicative of signals ordinarily processed by the media file reading and display apparatus. Therefore, Kavanagh clearly fails to recite this feature of claim 2. Flinn does not provide any teaching or suggestion which could form the basis for modifying the Kavanagh invention to utilize non-standard DVD control signals.

Single-Step Actuation Using Imposed Offset Addressing

Kavanagh Invention

In a regular DVD player system, multiple game options may typically be available for selection by a player on a display screen (for example, 5 game options may be arranged in a single column menu on the screen). In order to navigate to the

desired game option for selection, the player is required to depress standard DVD remote control navigation buttons such as "Up" and "Down" before pressing the "Enter" button when the desired game option is highlighted on the screen. The act of depressing several buttons in succession on the DVD remote control involves considerable time and effort which may not be convenient or desirable during game play particularly where player response time is critical.

In view of the above problems, Kavanagh provides "single-step actuation" of a game option by way of a game control unit 103. In particular, the game control unit 103 buttons are programmably mapped to a specific game option displayed on screen such that, upon single-step activation of a given button, the correct sequence of successive standard navigation control signals (e.g. corresponding to standard "Up", "Down" and "Enter" control signals of a DVD player) are transmitted from the game control unit 103 to effect selection of the game option. This alleviates the problems associated with using a conventional DVD player remote control where navigation buttons would otherwise need to be depressed multiple times.

The Present Invention

In contrast to Kavanagh, in the inventions of claims 2 and 7, operational code which is transmitted to the media file reading and display apparatus from the determined "first unit" enables a direct single-step selection and display of a media

file by way of imposed offset addressing wherein the direct selection and display of the media file is indicative of a game option being made during game play without a further user input being required (p. 24, line 16 - p. 25, line 2 and p. 26, line 15 - p. 31, line 5). Neither Kavanagh of Flinn citations expressly teach or suggest the use of imposed offset addressing at all.

In any event, in providing single-step actuation, Kavanagh still involves the transmission of successive "standard" DVD control signals (e.g. "Up", "Down", "Enter", etc.) which is contrary to what is recited in claim 2.

In seeking to address the resulting synchronization problems between a DVD game and the game unit, Kavanagh requires the use of an RF/IR base unit 102, such that RF can be used for a longer range transmission of signals from a game unit to the base unit. By placing the base unit 102 in closer proximity to the DVD player, IR transmission of the signals from the base unit to the DVD player are considered to be more reliable. As discussed above, the inclusion of an intermediate base unit 102 is contrary to what is taught in claims 2 and 7 which recites that transmission of the operational code is transmitted directly from the first unit (or first remote control in claim 7) to the media file reading and display apparatus.

Finally, it should be noted that in order to provide the single-step actuation approach taught by Kavanagh, each DVD game requires a matching memory device

to hold the game data in order for the game control unit 103 to generate and transmit the appropriate sequence of successive control signals in synchronization with the game. The addition of such a memory device not only increases production cost for the Kavanagh invention, but as Kavanagh itself points out, gives rise to synchronization errors where a sequence of successive control signals are not property received. Furthermore, if a memory device is damaged or lost, it would not be possible for the game control unit 103 to operate properly.

In view of the above, it would be apparent that the inventions of claims 2 and 7 provide a more efficient, cost effective and less complex solution than the solution proposed in Kavanagh.

Means of Resolving First Transmitted Signal

The Flinn invention relates to a wireless lock out system and method for receiving wireless signals from individual transmitters. At col.1, lines 56-63, the documents states that the invention has a plurality of wireless transmission means for transmitting a signal wherein each signal uniquely identifies one of the plurality of wireless transmission means. A receiver is provided for receiving the signal wherein the receiver is capable of identifying a first transmitted signal and a means of locking out subsequent signals from entering the receiver. Further, at col. 2, line 25, Flinn

further states that a central processing component is provided which includes a receiver for receiving a first transmitted signal, a processor for processing the first transmitted signal, and a lockout means for locking out subsequent transmitted signals. Figure 8 represents a block diagram of an embodiment of the receiver.

Whilst Flinn appears to provide a means of resolving a first unit to transmit a signal, it would be immediately apparent to a person of ordinary skill in the art that there are inherent problems with this system which would render it undesirable for combination with the Kavanagh invention so as to arrive at the invention of claim 2.

Firstly, when transmitters transmit signals at nearly the same time, the transmitted signals will mix and collide. The system will therefore only work effectively when there is sufficient time for a transmitter to complete a transmission to the receiver without signal collision occurring so as to allow the decoder in the receiver to properly decode the un-collided signal.

In contrast, the means for resolving as recited in claim 2 is adapted to initially receive the comparison code components of near simultaneously transmitted **infrared** wireless signals produced by the wireless signal transmitter units during game play **without** initially receiving the operational codes of the wireless signals. That is, it is only the comparison code components of the infrared wireless signals transmitted first in order to make the determination as to which was the "first unit' to transmit.

The means for resolving determines a "first unit" (from amongst the at least two wireless signal transmitted units) deemed to have first transmitted an infrared wireless signal by reference to the received comparison codes of the transmitted infrared wireless signals [only].

Thereafter, upon determining the "first unit", the operational code of the wireless signal transmitted from the "first unit" is **automatically** transmitted for processing by the media file reading and display apparatus (p. 13, line 11 - p. 14, line 2). Note, the comparison code is not transmitted with the operational code from the "first unit" for processing.

Not only is this means of resolving the first transmitted signal not taught in Flinn (or Kavanagh), but it is also unrealistic to suggest that a person of ordinary skill in the art would consider combining Flinn with Kavanagh to arrive at the present invention, where it is readily apparent that Flinn involves considerable technical problems which would compromise timely processing of game play selections.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the currently pending claims are non-obvious and allowable over the combined cited art. Withdrawal of the rejections is requested accordingly.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should now be in condition for allowance. A Notice of

Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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